



# NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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## **Supervisor Biane Lauds Increased Staffing to Address Wildfire Threat**

**SAN BERNARDINO** - Second District Supervisor Paul Biane on Tuesday commended the Board of Supervisor's unanimous approval of \$500,000 for additional firefighters at San Bernardino County Fire Department stations in wildfire-susceptible foothill, mountain and desert communities.

"The increased staffing will allow firefighters to stamp out small blazes before they become devastating wildfires," Biane said. "Having as many firefighters as possible on the front lines is critical this time of year."

Late winter rains spawned a bumper crop of seasonal grasses and brush in San Bernardino County, and summer heat has turned the vegetation into fuel for wildfires.

"The destructive Sawtooth Fire and other lightening-sparked wildfires throughout the County have shown how vulnerable our communities are this summer," Biane said.

Two fire stations in the Second District will receive additional staffing. The San Antonio Heights station, which provides support for Mt. Baldy, will get one additional firefighter around the clock, bringing the total staffing at the station to three full-time firefighters. Three firefighters will be assigned to the Lytle Creek station for 10-hour shifts on weekends. The station is normally staffed with paid-call firefighters who respond to the station only after they are paged.

The increased staffing will be in effect until October and then from May to June of next year. The Board utilized general fund money set aside for work on the General Plan update to pay for the additional staffing. The funding was no longer necessary for the General Plan purpose.